

Message Text

SECRET

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12

ACTION NEA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 PM-03 INR-05 CIAE-00 PRS-01 NSC-05

NSCE-00 MC-01 ACDA-10 L-01 SP-02 /049 W

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P 080645Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1146

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

USMTM DHAHRAN

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY SANAA PRIORITY

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 JIDDA 3236

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, SA, YE

SUBJECT: SAG ASSISTANCE TO YAR MILITARY

REF: A. JCSM-44-75 (THE "FIFER"REPORT)

B. JIDDA 1573 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT BEST WAY TO GET SAUDI ACTION ON YAR ARMED FORCES MODERNIZATION PROGRAM IS TO ATTEMPT TO STIMULATE REACTION TO USG RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN FIFER REPORT. RECOMMEND WASHINGTON AUTHORIZE TRANSMITTAL OF FOLLOWING LETTER FROM AMBASSADOR TO MINDEF SULTAN. END SUMMARY.

1. EMBASSY BELIEVES ONLY WAY TO JAR SAG OUT OF PRESENT LETHARGY ON YAR MILITARY MODERNIZATION PROPOSAL IS TO PROVIDE THEM WITH SUMMARY OF USG RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN FIFER REPORT AND HOPE MINDEF SULTAN WILL REACT. IN ABSENCE OF WILLINGNESS OR ABILITY OF USG TO FUND SIZEABLE MILITARY AID PROGRAM, WE HAVE FEW CARDS TO PLAY. BELIEVE LETTER ALONG FOLLOWING LINES PARA 3 IS ONE OF FEW IN OUR HANDS AT THE MOMENT.

2. WE HAVE CHOSEN FOR THE TIME BEING TO OVERLOOK SULTAN'S

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STATEMENT OF EARLY MARCH (REF B) THAT SAG WOULD CONCENTRATE ON

ARMY FIRST, RATHER THAN ALL FORCES ACROSS THE BOARD. WE THINK WE SHOULD CONTINUE TO STRESS DESIRABILITY OF WELL-ROUNDED (TRI-SERVICE) MODERNIZATION PROGRAM IF A MEANINGFUL DEFENSIVE CAPABILITY IS REALLY DESIRED. PERHAPS SAUDIS ARE NOT READY TO FUND A MEANINGFUL PROGRAM. BUT SINCE LEAD TIMES FOR PROCUREMENT OF AIRCRAFT OR NAVAL VESSELS ARE FAIRLY LONG, AND WOULD ALSO NECESSITATE LENGTHY TRAINING OF YAR PERSONNEL, WE BELIEVE IT BEST TO SUMMARIZE ENTIRE PACKAGE FOR SULTAN AND MAKE IT CLEAR THAT IN OUR VIEW ALL THREE SERVICES WOULD BENEFIT FROM IMMEDIATE ASSISTANCE. SCOPE AND SPEED OF PROGRAMS WILL INEVITABLY BE DETERMINED BY SAUDI, NOT AMERICAN, DESIRES, HOWEVER.

3. TEXT OF PROPOSED LETTER FOLLOWS, QUOTE: YOUR ROYAL HIGHNESS: RECALLING YOUR HIGHNESS'S RECENT STATEMENT THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO DISCUSS IN MID-MAY THE SUBJECT OF MODERNIZING THE ARMED FORCES OF THE YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC, I HAVE UNDERTAKEN TO SUMMARIZE FOR YOUR HIGHNESS'S CONSIDERATION THE RECOMMENDATIONS RESULTING FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE SURVEY OF YEMANI ARMED FORCES CONDUCTED LAST OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER BY A US MILITARY TEAM HEADED BY COL. WILLIAM A. FIFER. COL. FIFER, WHO WAS FORMERLY AMERICAN DEFENSE ATTACHE AT JIDDA, WAS SENT TO YEMEN TO ASSESS THE PRESENT STATE OF THE YEMENI ARMED FORCES IN ORDER THAT THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT WOULD BE BETTER PREPARED TO RESPOND TO REQUESTS FROM YOUR HIGHNESS' GOVERNMENT FOR EQUIPMENT AND TRAINING, ONCE THE SAUDI ARABIAN TEAM HAD COMPLETED ITS OWN MORE THOROUGH SURVEY AND HAD DETERMINED THE AREAS IN WHICH THE YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC IS MOST URGENTLY IN NEED OF ASSISTANCE. HAVING COMPLETED THE REVIEW OF OUR OWN SURVEY, THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT NOW STANDS READY TO RECEIVE FROM YOUR ROYAL HIGHNESS REQUESTS FOR LETTERS OF OFFER TO PROVIDE EQUIPMENT, LOGISTICAL SUPPORT, AND TRAINING AS SUMMARIZED IN THE ATTACHED DOCUMENT. IT IS OUR VIEW THAT FOR MAXIMUM BENEFIT, ASSISTANCE SHOULD TAKE THE FORM OF A COMPREHENSIVE, WELL-ROUNDED PROGRAM OF ASSISTANCE WHICH WILL PROVIDE A FRAME WORK FOR BUILDING AN EFFECTIVE DEFENSIVE FORCE FOR THE YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC DURING THE NEXT SEVERAL YEARS.

4. WE BELIEVE THAT ALL LETTERS OF OFFER FOR EQUIPMENT, TRAINING, OR SUPPORT SERVICES SHOULD BE PRESENTED DIRECTLY TO YOUR HIGHNESS'S GOVERNMENT FOR ACCEPTANCE AND FUNDING. DELIVERIES HOWEVER, WOULD BE MADE DIRECT TO THE YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC. WE ARE
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PREPARED TO SEND TO SAUDI ARABIA A LIMITED NUMBER OF PERSONNEL TO WORK WITH YOUR HIGHNESS'S MINISTRY AND WITH THE UNITED STATES MILITARY TRAINING MISSION IN FINALIZING REQUESTS FOR LETTERS OF OFFER, AND TO ASSIST IN OTHER ASPECTS OF PLANNING AND TRAINING. (EMBASSY COMMENT: WE WOULD HOPE THAT EXPENSES FOR THOSE PERSONNEL INVOLVED IN PLANNING AND FINALIZING LETTERS OF OFFER COULD BE RECOVERED FROM THE TWO PERCENT ADMINISTRATIVE FEE CHARGED ON FMS CASES, OR CHARGED TO MAP ASSISTANCE FOR

THE YAR. SAG ASSISTANCE TO THE YAR IS, AFTER ALL, WORTH
SOMETHING TO THE USG. WE WOULD, OF COURSE, BE LESS RE-
LUCTANT TO REQUEST SAG FUNDING FOR TAF TEAMS OF A SEMI-
PERMANENT DURATION IF THIS APPEARS NECESSARY. END EMBASSY COMMENT.)
WE ARE ALSO PREPARED TO ACCEPT INTO AMERICAN MILITARY SERVICE SCHOOLS
SUFFICIENT
NUMBERS OF YEMENI MILITARY PERSONNEL TO INSURE THAT ADEQUATE TRAINING

IS ACQUIRED PRIOR TO THE ARRIVAL OF EQUIPMENT.

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S E C R E T SECTION 2 OF 2 JIDDA 3236

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5. WE BELIEVE THAT A MEANINGFUL, WELL-ROUNDED
MODERNIZATION PROGRAM WILL NOT ONLY ASSIST IN STABILIZING
THE YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC BUT THAT IT WILL ALSO CONTRIBUTE
TO THE SECURITY OF THE REGION. WE ARE PREPARED TO SUPPORT
THE INITIATIVE YOUR HIGHNESS HAS SO WISELY TAKEN IN THIS
AREA, AND I LOOK FORWARD TO FUTURE CONSULTATIONS WITH
YOUR ROYAL HIGHNESS ON THIS SUBJECT. I WOULD WELCOME A
DETAILED STATEMENT OF YOUR HIGHNESS'S OWN VIEWS ON PRO-
GRAMS WHICH YOUR HIGHNESS'S GOVERNMENT IS PREPARED TO
UNDERTAKE. WITH WARM PERSONAL WISHES, SINCERELY, JAMES
E. AKINS, AMERICAN AMBASSADOR.

ATTACHMENT: ARMY RECOMMENDATIONS

1. THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT IS WILLING TO PROVIDE LETTERS OF OFFER FOR ARMORED CARS, 105MM HOWITZERS, 106MM RECOILLESS RIFLES, ENGINEERING CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT, PARACHUTES FOR AIRBORNE BRIGADES, PLUS ADDITIONAL SMALL ARMS AND AMMUNITION.

2. THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT IS WILLING TO EXPEDITE DELIVERIES OF WEAPONS, AMMUNITION, AND VEHICLES TO EQUIP
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ONE YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC ARMY INFANTRY BRIGADE IN THE NEAR FUTURE AS TANGIBLE EVIDENCE THAT THE MODERNIZATION PROGRAM IS UNDER WAY.

3. THE YAR ARMY REQUIRES ASSISTANCE IN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN EFFECTIVE LOGISTICAL SYSTEM, AS WELL AS TRAINING ASSISTANCE IN THE OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF EQUIPMENT TO BE DELIVERED. WE ARE PREPARED TO CONSULT WITH YOUR HIGHNESS ON THE BEST MEANS FOR OBTAINING SUCH ASSISTANCE, RELYING EITHER ON PRIVATE CONTRACTOR SUPPORT OR AMERICAN MILITARY PERSONNEL. (EMBASSY COMMENT: WE WOULD URGE CONTINUATION OF THE JORDANIAN ASSISTANCE MISSION, THE INVOLVEMENT OF LIMITED NUMBERS OF SAG MILITARY PERSONNEL, AND THE FUNDING OF A SMALL US ARMY TRAINING TEAM FOR THE YAR.)

AIR FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS

WE BELIEVE THAT THE DEFENSE OF THE REGION IS BEST ACHIEVED BY WORKING TOWARD COMMONALITY OF EQUIPMENT. EXPENSIVE DUPLICATION OF FACILITIES CAN BE AVOIDED BY RELYING ON MAINTENANCE FACILITIES EXISTING IN SAUDI ARABIA TO PERFORM CERTAIN TYPES OF MAINTENANCE FOR YEMENI EQUIPMENT.

1. THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT RECOMMENDS THE PURCHASE OF 28 F-5E AIRCRAFT, TO BE ORGANIZED INTO TWO OPERATIONAL SQUADRONS OF 14 AIRCRAFT EACH. FLIGHT TRAINING FOR THESE AIRCRAFT SHOULD BEGIN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

2. FOUR F5-F AIRCRAFT FOR AN OPERATIONAL TRAINING UNIT SHOULD BE PURCHASED.

3. TO PROVIDE A BADLY NEEDED TRANSPORT CAPABILITY FOR THE YEMENI ARMED FORCES, WE RECOMMEND THE PURCHASE OF C-130 AIRCRAFT. WE ARE PREPARED TO COOPERATE WITH YOUR HIGHNESS'S GOVERNMENT IN DETERMINING MORE PRECISELY THE EXTENT OF TRANSPORT CAPABILITY REQUIRED. SUCH A STUDY WOULD ALSO ASSIST IN DESIGNING THE LOGISTICS AND COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS REQUIRED.

4. WE ARE PREPARED TO ASSIST IN DESIGNING A PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM FOR THE YEMENI AIR FORCE.

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5. WE ARE PREPARED TO ASSIST IN DESIGNING AND IMPLEMENTING A LOGISTICS SYSTEM FOR THE YEMENI AIR FORCE, AND TO TRAIN A NUMBER OF PERSONNEL IN THE UNITED STATES TO ENABLE THEM TO SUPERVISE SUCH A LOGISTICS SYSTEM.

6. WE RECOMMEND THAT DISCUSSIONS BE UNDERTAKEN BETWEEN YOUR GOVERNMENT AND THE YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC TO EXTEND THE EXISTING SAUDI GROUND ENVIRONMENT SYSTEM (INCLUDING A COMMUNICATIONS NET, A RADAR NET, AND A SYSTEM OF AIRCRAFT NAVIGATIONAL AIDS) TO THE YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC.

7. WE ARE PREPARED TO ASSIST IN THE IDENTIFICATION YEMENI AIR FORCE PERSONNEL QUALIFIED TO RECEIVE TRAINING AS AIRCREW AND SUPPORT PERSONNEL FOR THE PROPOSED AIRCRAFT.

NAVY RECOMMENDATIONS

1. IN OUR VIEW, THE LIMITED DEFENSIVE NEEDS OF THE YAR CAN BE FULFILLED THROUGH THE PROVISION OF TWO MECHANIZED LANDING CRAFT (LCM-6) AND SIX PATROL VOATS (PB) MARK 3 (65') WITH ONE 20MM GUN FORWARD AND TWO 50 CALIBER MACHINE-GUNS AFT. THE LCM-6'S WILL PROVIDE A SMALL AMPHIBIOUS CAPABILITY TO SUPPORT YAR OPERATIONS ON NEIGHBORING COASTAL ISLANDS. THE SIX PB'S WILL PROVIDE A LIMITED DEFENSIVE CAPABILITY AGAINST SEABORNE ATTACK OR INFILTRATION, AS WELL AS AN ESCORT CAPABILITY FOR THE UNARMED LCM-6'S. AFTER PERHAPS FIVE YEARS EXPERIENCE WITH THESE CRAFT, THE YEMENI NAVY SHOULD BE READY TO OPERATE AND MAINTAIN SOMEWHAT LARGER CRAFT.

2. A SMALL MAINTENANCE FACILITY SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED AT HODEIDA TO SUPPORT THE NAVAL VESSELS.

3. TO PROVIDE THE YEMENI NAVY WITH A CORE OF PERSONNEL QUALIFIED TO OPERATE AND MAINTAIN THE RECOMMENDED VESSELS, WE RECOMMEND INCREASING THE QUOTAS FOR THE SAUDI NAVAL EXPANSION PROGRAM RECRUIT TRAINING PROGRAM IN THE UNITED STATES FROM 125 TO 130 SO AS TO INCLUDE FIVE YEMENI NAVY ENLISTED MEN WITH EACH SAUDI RECRUIT CLASS. ADDITIONALLY, WE RECOMMEND INCLUDING THREE YEMENI NAVY JUNIOR OFFICERS

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WITH EACH ANNUAL SAUDI CLASS ENTERING THE INTERNATIONAL
OFFICER CANDIDATE SCHOOL. END QUOTE.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: AUTHORIZATION TO DELIVER PROPOSED
LETTER.

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